Abdul Latif Jameel Water and Food Systems Lab
2024 Call for Proposals: Water and Food Projects in India

J-WAFS is offering a total of up to $40,000 in grants to current members of the MIT community interested in addressing a water or food challenge in India. The grants are intended to further work being pursued by individuals as part of their MIT research, innovation and entrepreneurship, coursework, or related activities. Support for teams will also be considered, though at least 50% of the team must be from MIT. Applicants may request up to $15,000 in funding. J-WAFS will award one to three grants based on the winning proposal(s).

Proposals should be for development projects or projects benefiting low-income populations. Examples of relevant challenges could include but are not limited to the following:

- Economically appropriate water purification technologies, esp. for rural areas
- Water distribution and management strategies, esp. for rural areas
- Other water quality issues, e.g. sanitation, monitoring, etc.
- Food safety issues
- Food preservation and waste reduction
- Water for agriculture, especially smallholder farms
- Agricultural innovations and improvements

Eligibility

Faculty members, full and part time research staff with staff appointments, currently registered MIT graduate and undergraduate students, or small teams with at least 50% MIT participation and an eligible individual in the leadership role will be considered for funding. Grants can be used over the course of up to one year to support travel, technology pilots, scale-up studies, community outreach and education, etc. Funds may not be used for equipment purchases. Awards will be announced at the end of November 2024, and the work supported by the grant should commence at the beginning of the spring 2025 semester or the summer of 2025.

Application Process

Eligible applicants should submit a proposal, following the attached guidelines, to:
https://webportalapp.com/webform/jwafs_proposal_submission_form

Deadline

Proposals and any accompanying materials are due by 5:00 p.m. ET on **Thursday, October 31, 2024**.

Selection Criteria

Grants will be awarded based on: (1) importance of problem and appropriateness of proposed activity to address problem; (2) evidence of the applicants' commitment to the chosen problem/activity; (3) likelihood of successful outcomes; and (4) necessity of receiving this funding in order to achieve these outcomes.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Blais, communications and program manager, at cblais@mit.edu

Complete grant application packets should be submitted as a single attachment following the guidelines below, no later than **5:00 p.m. ET on Thursday, October 31, 2024**, to: https://webportalapp.com/webform/india_grant_submission_form

Part 1: Grant proposal cover page
Use form on next page

Part 2: Proposal
Section 1: Description of problem being addressed (*1/2 page*)

Section 2: Proposed solution (*max 1 page*)
Describe what is being done to address the problem and how the solution is expected to work, anticipated outcomes, prior research or evidence that it will work, etc. Include how the success of the project will be evaluated.

Section 3: Outline of work plan and timeline (*max 2 pages*)
Describe the proposed activities to be funded by this grant and how they relate to the problem being addressed as well as the solution.

Include a detailed description, the start date and timeline for these activities, any relationship to other ongoing efforts, and the role of any local partners.

If the proposal is being submitted by a team, include a description of individual team member's roles/responsibilities.

Section 4: Funding (*max 1 page*)
a. Requested funding, budget, and justification. Include a breakdown of specific costs and sufficient detail to explain what the funding will cover and why it is needed. The budget should include overhead based on MIT Fund Account overhead rates. Note that for Fund Accounts, overhead is much higher on postdoc and staff salaries than on most other salaries or expenses. Please use the J-WAFS budget template, which you can find here. You may contact J-WAFS financial and project administrator Nicholas Pasinella at bnpas@mit.edu if you need assistance with the budget.

b. Other resources. Describe other financial or in-kind resources that have been secured or are being applied for to support this activity. If applicable, include a column in your budget showing line items covered by other funding sources.

Section 5: About the applicant(s)
a.   Resume(s) or CV(s) of each participant (*two pages maximum per person*)

b.   Brief (*1-2 paragraph*) personal statement describing the history of your commitment to the problem/activity and any plans for future work in this area beyond the requested funding.

Section 6: Additional information
     Use this section to provide any additional relevant information for the review committee.

APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Project Title:	
First name:	Last name:
Preferred first name:	
Preferred salutation/pronoun:	[Ms.], [Mr.], [she], [he], [they], etc.
MIT Affiliation	☐Faculty ☐Staff ☐Graduate student ☐Undergraduate student
MIT Department/Program:	
Position Title (*if applicable*):	
Degree and anticipated date of graduation *(if applicable):*	
Email address:	
Campus office address:	
Postal mailing address:	
Submitting as a team?	☐ Yes ☐ No
Role on team (*if applicable*):	
Attach additional form for each additional team member (*if applicable*).	

Questions? Contact Carolyn Blais at cblais@mit.edu

Please include this completed cover sheet as the first page of your grant application. Thank you!